

EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

1 Cor.16:15-20

1. Fruit

1 Cor 16:15 *First Fruits*: part of crop planted first and harvested first.

When Stephanas and household saved, it was a confirmation that there was an even greater harvest coming. Rom 16:5

2. Addiction to the ministry

Addicted: Completely devoted to serving other Christians; appointed themselves

How become addicted:

1. Influence
2. Interest
3. Experiment
4. Desire
5. Habit
6. Increased Tolerance
7. Dependence

Compare this to ministry!

This man and family not wait to be appointed to job of ministry.

Ministry: diakonia--service

3. Submission:

1 Cor 16:16 *That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one ...*

Submit to Stephanas and labourers like him in ministry.

*...and to every one ...*Show proper regard and deference. Place selves willingly under their leadership...treat with respect and honor.

Morris: Have due regard for men like Stephanas.

Eph 5:21-22; Eph 6:1; Rom 13:1; 1 Pet 5:5; Heb 13:7, 17; Mat 20:26-28

Anyone and everyone labouring in ministry

4. Encouragement

1 Cor 16:17-18 *Refreshed my spirit*

Rom 15:32; 1 Cor 16:18; 2 Cor 7:13; 2 Tim 1:16; Phile 1:7

By your presence, you have given me a breath of fresh air...encouraged me, given uplift of spirit.

Wiersbe: *This is a good place to encourage church members to refresh and encourage their pastor. Too often, believers share only problems and burdens with their spiritual leaders, and rarely share the blessings. Who is the pastor's pastor? To whom does the pastor turn for spiritual refreshment and encouragement? Every church member, if he will, can help refresh the pastor and make his burdens lighter.*

Gordon MacDonald, *Restoring Your Spiritual Passion*

VDP--Very Draining People (negative effect)

VNP--Very Nice People (zero effect)

VRP--Very Resourceful People (Plus effect)

I must learn to be an encourager.

5. Acknowledgment

1 Cor 16:18 *acknowledge ye them* Show recognition, proper respect and appreciation. Let them feel honoured in your presence. Phil. 2:29

Mac: God's design for the church is simple. The godly are to be in leadership. They rule, they teach, they admonish, they set the example. They are chosen because they are especially submissive to the Lord. The rest of the church therefore is to submit to them, in respect, honor, and love. They are accountable to the Lord for their leadership, and the rest are accountable to the Lord for submitting to and respecting that leadership.

6. Hospitality

1 Cor 16:19 Obvious oneness of spirit expressed between churches.

Aquila and Priscilla good friends of Paul .. Tentmakers

...with the church that is in their house

Local congregation meeting in their home.

In early church hospitality the mindset of Christians.

7. Love.

1 Cor 16:20 NT--kissing like handshaking

Expression of affection between a man and another man or a woman and another woman.

Administered on cheek or forehead

SO WHAT? Are these things true in our lives and ministry?

1. Fruit
2. Addiction to ministry
3. Submission to one another
4. Spirit of encouragement
5. Honoring God's servants
6. Hospitality
7. Treating one another with love